Travancore Sales Depot at Ootty.

23. ❋ **MR. K. T. THOMAS:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there was a Travancore Sales Depot at Ootty;

(*b*) whether it has been closed down; and

(*c*) if the answer to part (*b*) is in the affirmative, the total loss in respect of it and the reasons for closing down the Depot?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS (*Director of Industries*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes, on 30th September 1933.

(*c*) Rs. 1,465-5-8.

The Sales Depot was only temporary, opened for the season at Ootty. It was closed after the season was over.

Trunk Telephone from Alleppey to Trivandrum.

24. ❋ **MR. K. T. THOMAS:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the progress that has been made in extending the Trunk Telephone from Alleppey to Trivandrum; and

(*b*) the period within which they hope to accomplish the extension?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: (*a*) Proposals for the survey and for the reorganisation of the staff in connection with the construction of the interstate system are now under consideration of Government. A special Engineer has been appointed by Government recently and he is now engaged in the preparation of detailed estimates and specifications for the overhead lines and exchange equipment. The present work will cover the interlinking of important centres in the State such as Cape Comorin, Trivandrum, Quilon, Alleppey, Kottayam, Alwaye and Pallivasal. Negotiations with the Government of India regarding the construction of the interstate system with their trunk system are in progress and it is expected that a satisfactory agreement will be reached shortly when it will be possible to link up the existing Alleppey Exchange which is owned by the Government of India with the interstate system.

(*b*) About two years.

MR. K. T. THOMAS: May I know from the honourable member the reason for this long period of time that it is expected to take?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: The idea is to have a system for the whole State, from Cape Comorin to Alwaye and Pallivasal and connect it with the Trunk line. The survey and the installation of the line will take all that time. Government have already engaged an Engineer and I do not think that the whole work can be finished within less than two years.

PRESIDENT: The main difficulty is in regard to the negotiations with the Government of India in order that we may have control over our whole system.

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